## News Release from The Honorable Sandra Doorley

**Monroe County District Attorney** 

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Calli Johnson Monroe County District Attorney's Office 47 South Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14614 (585) 753-4532

## Jillanne and Joshua Mencel Sentenced for Summer 2016 Kidnapping

Rochester, NY- Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, New York State Supreme Court Judge Alex Renzi sentenced 30-year old Joshua Mencel to 16 years to life in the Department of Corrections for his conviction for two counts of Kidnapping in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, Coercion in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, Unlawful Imprisonment in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, and Assault in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. 47-year old Jillanne Mencel was sentenced to 17 years in the Department of Corrections and 5 years Post Release Supervision after her plea to Kidnapping in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree.

In June and July of 2016, the defendants kept a 24-year old pregnant woman inside the home at 47 Santee Street in the City of Rochester. During that time, the defendants repeatedly assaulted and threatened the victim. The abuse culminated in her imprisonment in an alarmed room where they continued to subject her to physical and mental abuse. She was ultimately rescued by the Rochester Police Department who were directed to the house after an anonymous 911 call. Investigators later discovered an alarm on the door and audio tapes detailing the abuse of the victim.

Joshua Mencel was convicted after a Jury Trial on April 19<sup>th</sup> and Jillianne Mencel pled shortly thereafter. After his plea to Kidnapping in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, William Geer, the third co-defendant, was sentenced to 6 years in the Department of Corrections and 5 years Post Release Supervision.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Eleanor Biggers and Monica O'Brien, both of the Special Victims Trial Division.

"What this victim went through will affect her for the rest of her life. Her bravery over these past months gives me hope for her future. No one should have to endure the inhumanities she suffered. The sentences imposed by Judge Renzi reflect the bizarre and horrific nature of this case," said Senior Assistant District Attorney Eleanor Biggers. "The nature of this offense led to a detailed and thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department. These convictions and sentences would not have been possible without their tireless work and dedication. This result is directly attributable to the exemplary work of Investigators James Castillo, Ryan Beyea, and the late Investigator Nolan Wengert."